

Logan Squares at Paulie Gee's Logan Square

2451 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-227-9898 While this local incarnation of the Brooklyn cult pizzeria specializes in Neapolitan-inspired pies, owner Derrick Tung created a menu category just for the Chicago location: Logan Squares, referring to (oddly enough) Detroit-style rectangular pan pizza with pepperoni that curls up like a contact lens as it cooks, letting its juices pool in the middle. By the time you read this, the Paulie's Prohibited, a stellar Logan Square of sharp cheddar, mozzarella, tomatoes, pecorino-Romano and that pepperoni, may be gone, Each month Tung and his pizza team will invent a new set of three Logan Squares (think carnivore, omnivore and herbivore) and come up with catchy names. Whatever they call them and however they top them, they'll always be shockingly light and airy, ringed with a lacy edge of baked cheese and limited to only 30 or so a Wednesdays. \$15.-Louisa CHU



The 'Nduja at Coalfire

1321 W. Grand Ave. 312-226-2625, 3707 N. Southport Ave. 773-477-2625

them and however they top them, they'll always be shockingly light and airy, ringed with a lacy edge of baked cheese and limited to only 30 or so a night, only on Sundays, Mondays and Wednesdays. \$15.—Louisa Chu



Black & White at Nomad Kitchen

4019 N. Damen Ave. 847-393-3955

The city's best-known pizza on wheels, found twice weekly at Green City Market in Lincoln Park, now has its own kitchen in North Center. There, chef and owner Jared Batson holds a three-course pizza dinner on the first Monday of each month. The best pie he makes is the Black & White, his signature and his own favorite pizza. With black garlic tomato sauce, whole black garlic, mozzarella, Prairie Fruits Farm chevre and chive, on a beautifully charred yet chewy crust. \$15 at market, one size only; \$42 three-course dinner. —LOUISA CHU

Sausage deep-dish at Louisa's Pizza & Pasta

14025 S. Cicero Ave., Crestwood 708-371-0950

An unassuming pizzeria off a busy-yet-unpopulated thoroughfare in Crestwood. Louisa's is a bright star in the deep-dish firmament. Louisa De Genero founded the spot in 1981, after years under the employ of Pizzeria Due. Informed by her time there, she created her secret recipestill in use today and closely guarded by members of her family. The buttery crust here is key; at once fluffy and firm, it effortlessly carries the weight of molten cheese, bright and juicy tomato puree and fennel-y nuggets of sausage. \$15 for a small. - Joseph Hernandez

White pizza with clams and bacon at Piece Brewery and Pizzeria

1927 W. North Ave. 773-772-4422

Piece specializes in New Havenstyle pizza, so it would basically be a crime if the Wicker Park joint didn't put out a clam and bacon pizza. For the uninitiated, the clams mostly meld into the background, offering a slight and attractive brininess to each bite. That allows the smoky, fatty bacon to run free, adding pops of pure porky indulgence. I realize it sounds as if it shouldn't work, but this is my go-to order here from now on. – NICK KINDELSPERGER



CHICAGO'S BEST DIALS OF 2016 ... so far

Chicago Tribune

Pizza is a contentious topic in Chicago, with as many locals hating on deep-dish as there are tourists eating it. We, however, don't discriminate. There's great pizza of all shapes and sizes in this city—you just have to know where to look. After trying dozens of pies and slices, we've compiled a list of the best: thin-crust, medium-crust, deep-dish and more. We'll be adding a new pizza every day in September, so check back ... and get eating.

Check **chicagotribune.com/dining** for more top pies added every day throughout the month.

✓ Prosciutto and arugula at Robert's Pizza Co.

355 E. Ohio St. 312-222-0905

Self-taught pizzaiolo Robert Garvey says it took him 15 years to perfect his delicious crust, inspired by New York pizza, but less flexible (you can't fold a slice) and more versatile. After moving to Chicago, he and his wife, Dana Hokin, hosted four-course pizza parties in their home, which quickly became highly desired charity-auction items. Late last year the two opened a cozy 50-seater in Streeterville, offering sweet and savory pies, including a favorite topped with a traditional pairing of prosciutto and arugula. —PHIL VETTEL

Russo sausage deepdish at Labriola Cafe 535 N. Michigan Ave. 312-955-3100

Deep-dish dissenters always harp on the lifeless crust that hides beneath the sauce and cheese of most versions (I know, because I'm one of them). That's where Labriola stands apart. The crust is crackly and gorgeously browned, looking like a beautiful loaf of bread. Of course, it helps that the cheese is tangy and the sauce bright and chunky. While tourists jam classic deep-dish joints, know that what is probably the best deep-dish in the city is hiding in plain sight, just steps from the Magnificent Mile. \$21.25 for a 12-inch. - NICK KINDELSPERGER



▲ The Fancy Nancy at Reno

2607 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-697-4234

Despite its name, the Fancy Nancy is deceptively simple: just red sauce, mozzarella, basil and burrata on Reno's excellent wood-fired crust—the kind with a puffy outer ring that makes you excited to get to the end of the slice. But the moniker still works, because anyone would feel fancy when presented with this much burrata. A hunk the size of your fist sits in the middle of the pizza, just waiting for your Instagram shot. Tastewise, the cheese would do better more evenly distributed, but the presentation is impressive, and you can disperse it as you choose. At the end of the day, it's creamy, delicious and the reason to order this pizza time and time again. \$14, one size only. —MARISSA CONRAD



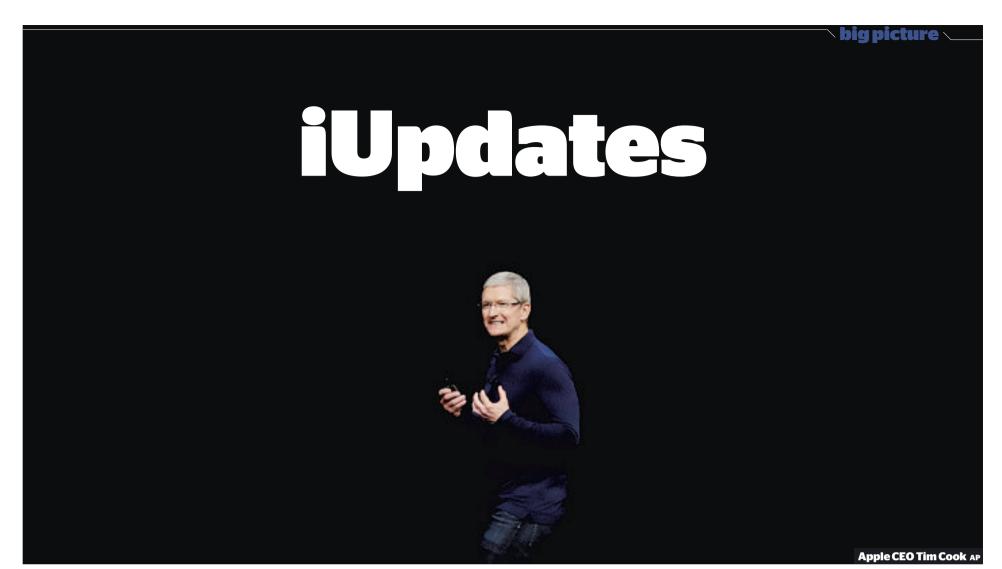
▲ The Lou at Lou Malnati's

1120 N. State St. (and 44 other locations)

This family-run Chicago pizza empire (45 city and suburban locations, and one in Phoenix) traces its roots to the origins of deep-dish pizza; Rudy Malnati, Lou's father, managed Pizzeria Uno from its inception. In addition to its iconic cheese and cheese-sausage pizzas, there are minor innovations; "The Lou," a three-cheese pie with rich mozzarella, Romano and cheddar, is my favorite. The pizza comes on a garlic version of the restaurant's signature Buttercrust, a slightly crunchy upgrade (get it on any pie for 75 cents) with a hint of buttery flavor. On all pizzas here, crushed San Marzano tomatoes (never a sauce) deliver pure flavors, and skillful baking is remarkably consistent. \$20 for a medium. —PHIL VETTEL

at Vito & Nick's 8433 S. Pulaski Road 773-735-2050

This 93-year-old pizzeria was voted Chicago's best snot for thin crust by our readers earlier this year, and one bite through the red-sauce-smeared cracker crust, cut into squares and topped with fatty fennel sausage and melted mozzarella, and you will believe in democracy again. Not only is this one of the best Chicago-style thin-crust pizzas ever, it also represents the best of a specific South Side substyle, with an addictive hard-bite crunch. The pizzeria, now in Ashburn on the far Southwest Side. is cash-only, and the pizzas come in only small and large. Get the large, always. And if someone in the group is feeling the need for veggies? Pizza-makers are amenable to a half-andhalf toppings situation. \$16.50. -LOUISA CHU



APPLE UNVEILS NEW IPHONE AND APPLE WATCH

By Tracey Lien | Los Angeles Times

or nearly a decade, Apple has shown the world its new line of iPhones in September. It's something of a tradition in the tech industry—and this year wasn't any different. The tech giant hosted a press conference Wednesday at the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium in San Francisco and unveiled a few new products:

- » The iPhone 7 and iPhone 7 Plus
- » Wireless headphones called AirPods
- » The Apple Watch Series 2
- » A new mobile operating system (to be released Tuesday)
- » A new watch operating system (to be released Tuesday)

Mario finally comes to iOS

After stubbornly holding out on bringing Super Mario video games to mobile devices, Nintendo has given in, announcing Wednesday at the event that it will release "Super Mario Run" on iOS. The game will be released sometime during the holidays.

Apple Watch Series 2

Though critics have said the Apple Watch wasn't quite the game-changer that Apple might have hoped for, it was No. 2 in worldwide watch sales in 2015, behind only Rolex. It was also the top-selling smart watch.

Here's what's new for current watch owners:

- » Pokémon Go is coming to the watch.
- » A new operating system, WatchOS3, lets users hold a button on the side to call 911.

And here's what's new for the upcoming

Apple Watch Series 2:

- » It's "swim-proof," rated water-resistant to 50 meters. The speaker, previously a place where water could enter and damage the watch, was redesigned to use the speaker itself to eject water.
- » The display will be twice as bright—the brightest display Apple has ever shipped.
- » Apple will ship a ceramic model.
- » It will have built-in GPS for runners, walkers and cyclists who would prefer to log their workouts without bringing along a phone.
- » There's also a collaboration with Nike+ intended to court runners with a sportsspecific watch model and an app.

Here's the pricing:

- » Apple Watch Series 2: \$369
- » Apple Watch Nike Plus: \$369
- » Apple Watch (original but with the same dual-core processor): Starts at \$269

» WatchOS3 is set to launch Tuesday, with Apple Watch Series 2 going on sale the following week.

iPhone 7

Here's what to expect from the iPhone 7.

The body:

- » It comes in a few finishes: high-gloss jet black, matte black, gold, silver and rose gold.
- » It has a new home button that is force-sensitive.
- » It is water- and dust-resistant.

The camera:

- » It features an optical image stabilizer to reduce the blur from shaky hands.
- » There's a new six-element, f/1.8 aperture lens and a 12 megapixel high-speed sensor.
- » Apple has overhauled the flash, adding four LED lights and the ability to compensate for the flickering of artificial light.
- » The big change comes to those who shell out for the iPhone 7 Plus. It features two 12 megapixel cameras—one with a wideangle lens, another with a telephoto lens for better zooming. It also allows for bokeh, those artful blurry circles you'll see in photos with lots of depth of field. It achieves this using machine learning to apply a depth map to an image and blur the background.

The sound:

» Farewell, headphone jack. Apple nixed the

- industry-standard 3.5-millimeter headphone jack and replaced it with speakers—one at the top and one at the bottom. This gives the iPhone 7 stereo sound that's twice as loud.
- » Apple will use its proprietary lightning port as its digital audio connection.
- » Every iPhone 7 will ship with a pair of earbuds that connect through the lightning port and an adapter that works with wired headphones.
- » Apple defends getting rid of the headphone jack as a sign of the company's courage, a shift that will help the company make phones smaller and a step toward a wireless future.

The price:

»Both versions of the iPhone 7 come in 32GB, 128GB and 256GB models. The iPhone 7 starts at \$649; the iPhone 7 Plus at \$769. Pre-ordering for the iPhone 7 line starts Friday. Shipping begins Sept. 16.

AirPods

These white wireless earbuds interact with the iPhone and the Apple Watch. Wear them both to watch movies or listen to music, or just pop in a single one for a phone call (kinda like those Bluetooth earpieces people used to wear). Each includes a mic, chip, sensors and batteries, which last five hours. They charge in their case, and you can charge the case itself through the lightning port. AirPods, priced at \$159, will ship in late October.

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3 PERSPECTIVES ON ONE RELATIONSHIP QUESTION

Welcome to "Threesome," Each week, we'll take a look at a relationship question from the public and have three panelists give their insights. Have a question to ask? Shoot it over to us on Twitter at @**redevechicago** or on our Facebook page. If it's a little more private, feel free to email it to **redeye@redeyechicago.com** with the word "Threesome" in the subject line.

I always dress well for dates, both to look attractive and to signal that I respect the other person enough to dress up. However, I feel offended when my date shows up wearing shabby/gym clothes, no makeup and looks like she obviously put no effort into her appearance. I find it downright insulting, especially when I'm there in my blazer, best pair of jeans and smart/clean shoes. I've heard similar about men showing up with dirty/worn shoes and graphic tees that look like they are worn at home. Whether the date is male or female, do you think this is acceptable? -Question via Reddit, edited for length



Shelbie Lynn Bostedt Single, 22

Unless you explicitly addressed dressing up for a date or are going somewhere that requires a certain standard of dress, you have absolutely no right to be insulted by how your date dresses to meet you. If your date feels comfortable enough around you to not have to dress to the nines to impress you, that would be an even bigger compliment than if

they showed up in a tuxedo or evening gown. If you equate dressing nicely with how much they like you, you should maybe do some re-evaluating of how you determine how well a date goes.



Newton

I'm going to level with you here: There's nothing wrong with expecting someone to dress a certain way in certain situations, but there's got to be some sort of notice on your end. What I'm saying is, don't tell her that you plan on grabbing fast food and get pissed when she shows up in gym shorts and a T-shirt. You can't really blame her for wanting

to be comfy. God knows, I would feel foolish ironing my best slacks to order a Chalupa Supreme. If, on the other hand, you suggest going out for a classy date night and she agrees, I think it's fair for you to expect a certain type of presentation. There has to be some sort of communication there. So, in short, is that acceptable? Yes, but don't be insulted if she doesn't want to break out the kitten heels to go to town on a Cheesy Gordita Crunch.



Morgan Olsen

Woof, that's a tough one. It sounds like you genuinely enjoy getting dressed up for date night (me too!). Like you, I'd be a bit thrown off if my boyfriend showed up to dinner at a nice restaurant wearing sweatpants and a T-shirt. But if we were simply catching a movie and grabbing drinks at a dive bar down the street, I wouldn't bat

an eye. Whether or not it's "acceptable" all depends on what you're doing and how much you've communicated. You can't blame your date for underdressing if you didn't fill her in on the date details, right? Everyone has different beauty and fashion standards, but it sounds like you need to be a bit more understanding.



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RING THAT BELL

THE WAIT FOR CM PUNK'S UFC DEBUT IS ALMOST OVER

By Ted Gruber | FOR REDEYE

In January 2014 at Quickens Loan Arena in Cleveland, CM Punk decided his pro wrestling career was over.

Fast-forward to now and the Chicago native (real name: Phil Brooks) is on the brink of another watershed moment in that same arena: his UFC debut.

The former WWE Champion has cited burnout as why he left pro wrestling; he was tired of the traveling, the direction his character was being taken by his superiors and the overall business structure. He decided that was enough for him to begin anew.

"I've been there, I've done that, and I've accomplished everything I was going to," Punk told Complex Magazine about his decision.

The road to his first mixed martial arts fight, against 24-year-old relative newcomer Mickey Gall at UFC 203 on Saturday, has been two years in the making. Punk wasn't expecting the journey to take quite so long, but back

surgeries as well as struggles with depression delayed his efforts.

The 37-year-old Punk has absorbed criticism that he doesn't deserve his multi-fight UFC contract because he has no MMA pedigree. Some argue that he is taking the spot of an established fighter who has paid his proverbial dues. Punk's reply has largely come not from words but from actions as he trains at Roufusport Mixed Martial Arts Academy in Milwaukee.

"My opinion, the best MMA gym possibly in the world," he said during a recent media conference call. "But then again I'm supposed to say that, you know. But I don't have to talk it up, the track record of fighters that train there—from out of there pretty much speaks for itself. ...

"It's just there are people who want to see

me win. There are people who want to see me fail. I've said you've got to middle-road it."

Only by testing his skills in the Octagon will he know if he's progressed quickly enough to emerge victorious. Gall has a head start, having made quick work of Mike Jackson in February with a victory by submission.

Gall called out Punk after that win and hopes to seize the opportunity against his bigname opponent. And Gall definitely does not lack for bravado after watching a Punk documentary that debuted last month.

"I'm not particularly impressed, just different things, the way he moves," Gall said of Punk during the media conference call. "I'm sure he's improved tremendously since that footage, but I know when he gets to the fight, we get into [it], those bad habits tend to come out and I know I'll be able to expose those."

Care to respond, Mr. Punk?

"[The documentary is] a correct depiction of where I was at when it was shot, three back surgeries, walking around with a herniated disc, 15 percent power in my left leg," he said on the call. "It'd be like me watching one of Mickey's fights and expecting to fight that guy. Mickey trains his ass off and he trains with a good team. He's not going to be the same guy he was in his last fight, just like I'm not going to be the same guy you saw on the television show."

For the time being, all Punk can do is put faith in his preparation. He knows he's still a fresh face to the sport and wants to continue to hone his new craft.

"The sun comes up, it's a good day and I try

UFC 203

The main card for UFC 203 on Saturday will feature five fights, including the CM Punk-Mickey Gall welterweight matchup. Those bouts will available only on pay-per-view, beginning at 9 p.m. The main event pits heavyweight champion Stipe Miocic against Alistair Overeem. Four preliminary matchups will air on Fox Sports 1 starting at 7 p.m.

and work towards the goal," he said. "I don't think past this fight. I'm not looking at who [the second opponent is] going to be. I'm just focused on this one."

Regardless of what anyone thinks of his fighting skills, Punk's verbal agility was in top form when he was asked to consult his crystal ball.

"I see my hand getting raised, and I'm not really one for making predictions," he said. "I definitely see myself winning, and if I had to pick, I'd pick TKO. I want to show out. I want to show up. I want to beat Mickey. I don't really give a [bleep] how I do it. ...

"People either love me or hate me already. I'm not trying to talk anybody into the building on this one. I think the allure is just the fact that it's happening. The story writes itself. It's not a fabricated thing where I need to create some drama between me and Mickey. We're going to fight. That's the beauty of it. It doesn't need to be a weird, verbal pissing contest."

For Punk, it would be refreshing to have his hand raised in the same building he walked out of two years ago.

TED GRUBER IS A REDEYE CONTRIBUTOR. @TEDGRUBER





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SALUTES ARE IN ORDER

Jonathan Toews isn't the only Blackhawks player who will have a letter on his jersey when the World Cup of Hockey begins later this month. On Wednesday, USA Hockey announced that Patrick Kane will serve as an alternate captain during the tournament along with Minnesota's Ryan Suter; San Jose's Joe Pavelski will be the U.S. captain. In August, Toews was named an alternate captain for Team Canada

THE MOUTHWATCH

"I FOUND SOMETHING THAT I CAN IMPROVE EVERY DAY ON, HELP THOSE AROUND ME AND HAVE THAT 8-YEAR-J'RE FLYING AROUND AT CESS THE WHOLE TIME H YOUR BUDDIES."

-Bears offensive lineman **Kyle Long**, on his approach to football. The Bears announced Wednesday that the threetime Pro Bowler signed a contract extension that will keep him in a Bears uniform through the 2021 season.

LOST YOUR APPETITE?

The Bears have an official hashtag for the 2016 season: #FeedDaBears. While we at RedEye aren't as sour on it as, say, ESPN the Magazine writer Mina Kimes is ("you couldn't pay me to say 'feed da bears' out loud in a public place," she tweeted), it does fall a bit flat. What's wrong with #BearDown? Full marks to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' #SiegeTheDay, however.

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By Morgan Olsen | REDEYE

ow might be a good time to call Mom and Dad to see if they had the foresight to stash away their bell-bottoms, silk scarves and platform shoes from the '70s. If not, you won't have to look far for disco-inspired fashion on the racks. Resale shops and major retailers such as Topshop, H&M and Zara alike are stocking up on bodysuits, bold patterns, flared pants and metallic everything for fall. And what better backdrop to showcase these loud trends than River North nightclub newcomer Disco (III W. Hubbard St.), with its LED dance floor, faux fur-covered couches and cheeky cocktail menu? Just weeks after it opened its doors, we filled the space with sequins, silk and lotsa funk. Elizabeth Margulis, the Chicago stylist behind the shoot, explained how to wear the '70s this season.

First things first, it's the realest

Perhaps the most exciting aspect of disco-inspired fashion is the freedom to express yourself without worrying too much about matchy-matchy pieces and strict style trends.

"The thing about '70s and disco is it was about being loud and vibrant and letting your freak flag fly," Margulis said. "It was about expressing yourself with colors and eclectic pieces. I really wanted to showcase that. The more extravagant and colorful and glittery you could be, the better."

Though the decade certainly has been rearing its colorful head in modern fashion for the past couple of years, consumer-level retailers are going hard on true '70s trends this season. For the photo shoot, Margulis looked off the runway to Topshop, Asos, J. Crew, Nasty Gal and more. She said she imagines the influence will stick around for the next year or two, and she hopes our generation can put its own spin on the unique era.

"People always think about bell-bottoms and flares and turtlenecks and overalls and peasant blouses," she said. "But I think if you're going to invest in something, go for a two-piece outfit so you can mix and match—like a cute top and wide-legged pants—and transition each piece into other outfits."

Try me

Margulis showed up to the shoot with a rack full of huge floral patterns, plunging necklines, larger-than-life Lucite jewelry from Chicago designer Giselle Gatsby and faux fur jackets. For real-world shoppers, she recommends scanning stores for these key staples and seamlessly blending them

into an everyday wardrobe. While it's easy to queue up a sexy silver bodysuit or sequined hood for a night out, incorporating the trends into workfriendly ensembles can prove to be a challenge. Margulis suggests turning to accessories for a more subtle look: Tie a geometric-print silk scarf on your bag, rock big, colorful sunglasses on the way into the office or wrap a chunky belt around that billowy dress.

Gentlemen, the '70s didn't pass you by the first time around, and the second coming is no different. Bold patterned button-ups, colorful pants and textured separates will be popping up on your radar all season long. Margulis encourages men to look outside the comfort zone for slightly more feminine pieces.

"There are a lot of people who are really stepping back from the normalities and expressing themselves," she said. "I'm seeing a lot of people who are letting their inner queens come out—even if they're not queens. They're allowing their diva sides to show."

No matter how groovy you choose to go, Margulis said the key to pulling off the decade this fall is conviction. Channel your inner Farrah Fawcett or Mick Jagger and go forth.

"Don't be scared to mix and match. In the '70s—especially the disco era—you couldn't go wrong with whatever you wanted to wear, however you wanted to wear it," Margulis said. "You were proud. No matter what you were wearing, it was all about the confidence."

DISCO IS OPEN 11 P.M.-4 A.M. FRIDAYS AND 11 P.M.-5 A.M. SATURDAYS AT 111 W. HUBBARD ST. TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT STYLIST ELIZABETH MARGULIS, VISIT BIGHAIRBIGCITY.COM.

@MORGANCOLSEN



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By Morgan Olsen | REDEYE

he'70s are synonymous with groovy beats, beanbags and big hair. Despite all that awesomeness, quality cocktailing wasn't a high priority back then, and sickeningly sweet, gimmicky drinks dominated the scene. The folks behind Disco, a new bar above Celeste in River North, must know that everyone loves a good comeback story. They set out to resurrect the finest disco vibes with a side of phenomenal cocktails from Celeste's beverage team lead by Brendan Diaz.

"We really wanted to capture the essence of the time period rather than try and mimic exactly what was going on at that time," Diaz said. "So while there may have been several tequila sunrises and grasshoppers passing over the bar in the '70s, the era itself denotes a feeling much more important than what was in the glass."

The glasses here are filled with tasteful tropical flavors and simple garnishes, rounding out a confidently quirky cocktail program. We sampled five of the bar's top offerings (\$13 each) and used them as accessories to showcase the season's grooviest fashion trends (more on Page 10). Here's what you'll be sipping while bumping and grinding at Disco.

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Pornstar Frozen Martini 🚄

Vodka, cuvée, passion fruit puree, vanilla syrup, lime juice and a shot of bubbly on the side

Looks like: The cutest thing to hit the dance floor since you arrived.

Tastes like: The only known cure for disco fever.



Trophy Wife

Tequila blanco, pear brandy, Campari, raspberry syrup, lime juice, dehydrated lime wheel garnish **Looks like:** You'll want to put a ring on it.

Tastes like: A juicy margarita with a delightfully bitter finish.



Banana-Groni

Banana-infused gin, aperitif wine, bitters, falernum

Looks like: Is that a banana in your pocket, or are you just happy to see us?

happy to see us? **Tastes like:** The bitter regret of ignoring flavored gins for this long. And tiki time.





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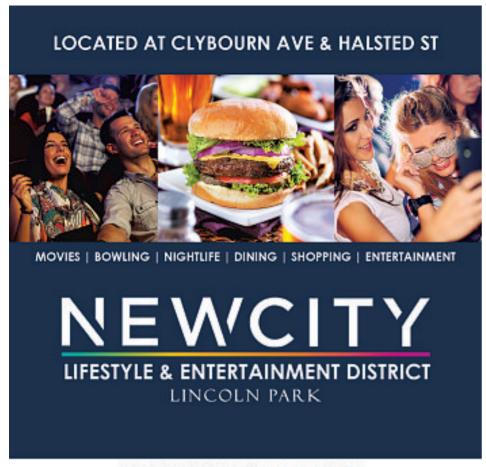




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set the scene

6 CHICAGO SHOWS TO SEE THIS WEEK

By Morgan Olsen | REDEYE

Step away from the Netflix marathon and find your way into one of these local theaters for a belly laugh this week. Your guide to Chicago's affordable and underthe-radar comedy scene awaits. @morgancolsen | mcolsen@redeyechicago.com

THURSDAY Zoltan Kaszas

The Comedy Bar

500 N. La Salle St. 312-836-0499

In town for a three-night stint, the winner of San Diego's Funniest Person Contest, Seattle International Comedy Competition and a handful of other accolades brings his show to the River North comedy club. 8 p.m. \$20. Tickets: comedybarchicago.com

'Evan & Mary-Jane Present: **Almost Holding Hands'**

The Beat Lounge at Second City

230 W. North Ave. 312-337-3992

Duo Evan Mills and Brittany Flynn present the opening night of this musical comedy about two best friends who are overly committed but will never fall in love with each other. Beyond writing their own material, Mills and Flynn play several instruments throughout the hour-ishlong show. 9 p.m. \$13. Tickets: secondcity.com

Andorka's Comedy Revue

Andorka's Sandwich Shop

2110 S. Halsted St. 312-763-6916

Celebrating one year of giggles, this anniversary show is BYOB-friendly, 100 percent free and hosted by Erin Grotheer with headliner Joe McMahon. Plus, order off the full menu and enjoy limited complimentary beer from Revolution Brewing, 8 p.m. Free, More information: facebook.com/andorkaschicago

Scout Festival Improv Showcase

The iO Theater

1501 N. Kingsbury St. 312-929-2401

Billed as a "greatest hits" performance featuring some of the theater's rising stars, this onenight show offers a little taste of everything including Whirled News Tonight, with satirical takes on current events, and 3Peat, an all-African-American ensemble that turns an audience suggestion or question into a longform improv piece. 8 p.m. \$5. Tickets: ioimprov.com

SUNDAY

'Taste Test Comedy'

The WIP Theater

6670 N. Northwest Hwy. 312-692-9327

The nationally touring show stops in Edison Park with food-centric sketch comedy and standup courtesy of host Kevin Seefried and quests David Tveite, Spark Tabor and Reena Calm. Plus, munch on free snacks throughout the show. 7:30 p.m. \$10. Tickets: wiptheater.com

TUESDAY 'Comedy Cocktail'

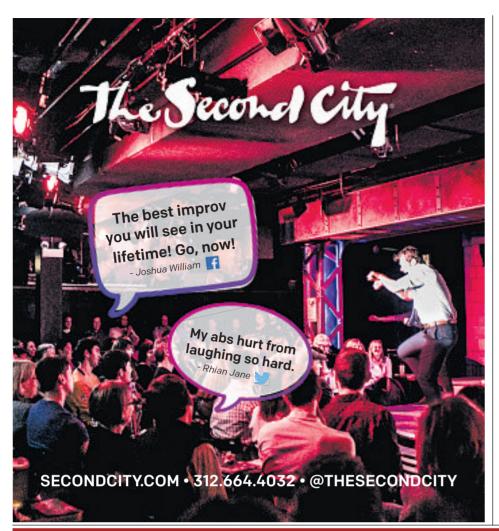
Foundation Room at House of Blues

329 N. Dearborn St. 312-923-7050 or 312-923-

2035 after 6 p.m.

Cozy up for two free shows featuring comedians Erica Clark, Taneshia Rice, Tristan Triptow, Paul Farahvar and many more. Plus, enjoy \$5 Best Damn Root Beer and Cherry Cola throughout the night. 7 and 9 p.m. Free. More information: houseofblues.com

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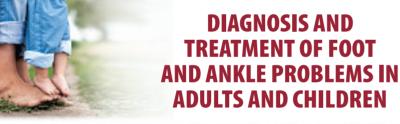
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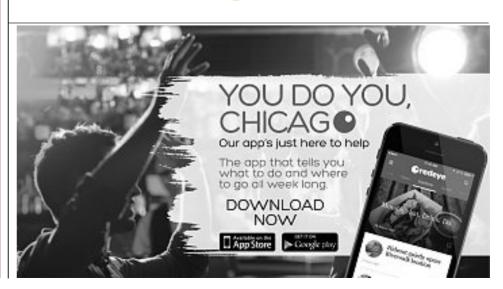
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17

Almost-'Bachelor' Luke Pell has a backup plan: country music

By Emily Yahr | THE WASHINGTON POST

The only thing more demoralizing than getting dumped on "The Bachelorette"? Getting rejected by network executives.

We may never know exactly what happened behind ABC's abrupt switch for the upcoming season of "The Bachelor": All signs pointed to dreamy Texan Luke Pell, 31, getting the spot, but to the surprise of everyone, the network announced last week that perpetual runner-up Nick Viall, 35, would be the new "Bachelor."

Pell, who came in fourth place on JoJo Fletcher's season, was as shocked as anyone-contracts were signed, and producers said "actually, never mind" only hours before he was supposed to fly to Los Angeles for the announcement.

"I was really frustrated, not going to lie," Pell said during a SiriusXM radio interview Tuesday with "The Highway" host Storme Warren.

However, Pell said, he's still "completely happy" with how everything turned out. That's because he has a secret weapon: an aspiring country music career.

Country music and the "Bachelor" franchise

are strangely intertwined, as country singers frequently show up to serenade contestants on dates. ABC has a strong relationship with Nashville because the network airs the Country Music Association Awards (and used to have the show "Nashville"), and the producers know what viewers like.

In other words, a post-"Bachelorette" country music career is a pretty smart backup plan. Luckily for Pell, his Nashville goal was already in the works.

As Pell explained this week while making the rounds on country radio shows, his lifelong dream has been country music. After he graduated from West Point in 2007, he requested to be assigned to the Fort Campbell military base near Clarksville, Tenn., to be closer to Nashville. He stayed there for a couple years, but then his military service took him around the world, including Afghanistan. After his service was complete, he moved back to Nashville in early 2015 and got to work on writing songs.

Pell played in a band in his native Texas. While playing a wedding, he met the bride's



brother, Brandon Kinney, a longtime Nashville songwriter with cuts for Luke Bryan, Randy Houser and Craig Campbell, among others. Kinney has been helping develop his career; Pell has a couple songs on Spotify and hopes to release an EP this winter.

During the Highway interview, Pell explained he wound up on "The Bachelorette" on a whim-his hairdresser and his friend's wife both submitted applications on his behalf. Once he was cast, he was concerned it might look like he was trying to cash in on his 15 minutes of fame and wasn't serious about a music career. As a result, he decided to never bring up his Nashville dreams, unlike some contestants, who shamelessly plug their future aspirations.

"We wanted to not even let that be the conversation," Pell said.





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WEDNESDAY'S SOLUTIONS								

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TODAY IN THE YEAR

1565: A Spanish expedition established the first permanent European settlement in what is now the United States at present-day St. Augustine, Fla.

1900: A hurricane struck Galveston, Texas, and killed an estimated 8,000 people.

1966: The science-fiction series "Star Trek" premiered on NBC.

1986: "The Oprah Winfrey Show" began the first of 25 seasons in national syndication.

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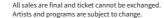
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Give the people what they want

ABC knows what's up, and that's why they've renewed the [bleep]show that is "Bachelor in Paradise" for a fourth season. According to variety.com, the "Bachelor" spinoff is having its mostwatched season yet, averaging about 6.2 million viewers. The show features alumni of "The Bachelor" and "The Bachelorette" living together in a secluded tropical house, and basically all they do is have



THE OUOTE Because the terrain of the face is the most dynamic thing you can point the camera at, to me. I love production design and bells and whistles and all of that. I love a technograin as much as the next gal, but a great actor's face? What else should we be looking at?" -Filmmaker **Ava DuVernay**, to Vulture, about why she chooses to do

so many close-ups when she directs. "Queen Sugar," her first TV show, premiered this week on Oprah's OWN network.

Patrick Dempsey and his wife have a lot of sex

The former "Grey's Anatomy" star told People magazine that after his wife, Jillian, filed for divorce in January 2015, he knew he had to make an effort to keep his family together. He felt like they had not done all that was needed to be done to make their marriage work, and "we both wanted to do that work," he said. After the divorce filing, the two started couples counseling, and they have since reconciled. Dempsey said he's learned how to keep their marriage strong: "You've got to communicate, and stay open and not get lazy. And not give up. And lots of sex!"

angsty teen superheroes to angsty teens

Greg Berlanti, the man behind television's "Arrow." "Supergirl" and "The Flash," is heading back to the big screen. According to thr. com, Berlanti is in negotiations to direct an adaptation of the YA novel "Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda," described as "a coming-of-age coming-out story" about a high school junior "whose sexual-orientation secret falls into the hands of the class clown." Wyck Godfrey and Marty Bowen, the team behind the "Twilight" saga, the "Maze Runner" films and "The Fault in Our Stars," are set to produce the movie, which is eyeing a 2017 start date.